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Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities

Celebrating 30 Years of Leadership & Advocacy



MINUTES OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities was held on Wednesday, February 15, 2006, at Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Room 140, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Neal at 1:15 p.m. Introductions of Commissioners, Staff and audience members followed.

APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 18, 2006 MEETING MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Gureckas, seconded by Commissioner Troost, and unanimously carried, the minutes for the meeting of January 18, 2006 were approved with the following corrections:

ATTENDANCE

Add: Commissioner Viola Vivian Corbett's name as unexcused absent
Add: Linda Black, guest
Correct: name of guest Carlton ~~Linda~~ Lindo

PUBLIC COMMENT

Hugh Hallenberg – Expressed his concerns regarding the possible implementation of a Quality Assurance program for IHSS which would standardize the amount of time allotted for each task performed by an IHSS caretaker. Mr. Hallenberg urged the Commission to request a representative from the Public Social Services Department appear before the Commission to address this issue.

Mr. Hallenberg also requested the Commission support/oppose the following initiatives:

- Support Senate Bill 840 relating to single payer health care coverage.
- Oppose Governor Schwarzeegger's motion to withhold the State COLA for SSI recipients for two years.
- Support Attorney General Lockyear's plan to file suit against the Federal Government for reimbursement of the costs incurred by the State of California

for the Medicare Prescription Part D plan.

- Requested the Commission send a letter urging Access Services to proceed with caution before making a decision to regionalize its Community Advisory Committee.

Lawrence Rolon – ADA Coordinator for the Los Angeles World Airports (LAX, Ontario, Palmdale, and Van Nuys), requested the Commission's assistance in recommending the appointment of two or three citizens within the County that would be interested in serving on an airport advisory committee. The appointed citizens would advise the committee on accessibility issues and service delivery improvements for patrons with disabilities.

Teddie Joy Remhild – announced that PASC (Sherman Oaks) would be hosting a workshop on the New Medicare Modernization Part D Prescription Program, February 23rd.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chair Neal reported the following:

- On February 13th, she and Commissioner Hamilton were presented with the Correta Scott King Community Service Award by CALIF in recognition of their advocacy in the area of disability rights. CALIF now has a satellite office on Crenshaw and Slauson which is open on Mondays. The organization hopes to expand the hours of operation for the office soon.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Public Relations and Transportation Committees

Commissioner Krzyzanowski reported that the Committees met and discussed the following issues:

- Methods to effectively generate public relations and publicity materials about the Commission and its activities. The Committee will be working on the development of an article about the Commission for publication in the County Digest.
- The taping of a show for the Community Access Program which would be lead by Commissioner Hamilton.
- Relationship building and coordination of mutual interests with the City Commission on Disabilities.
- The feasibility of hosting a special meeting with the City disability commission to address pertinent issues relating to the disability

community.

- Drafting a letter to Access Services urging them to consider deferring from making a final decision to regionalize its Community Advisory Committee without adequate input from the public.
- Inviting representatives from Access Services to an upcoming meeting to give a presentation on their complaint procedures.

On motion of Commissioner Krzyzanowski, seconded by Commissioner Weller, and unanimously carried, the Commission will invite representatives from Access Services to give a presentation at the next meeting on their complaint procedures.

2. ASI Report

Teddie Remhild reported the following:

- The ASI Board of Directors will be meeting on March 17 to address the regionalization of the CAC. Ms. Remhild encouraged the public to attend the meeting to offer their input .
- Access Services has a new Deputy Director.
- A new Federal lobbyist, Len Simon, has been contracted by ASI to lobby for funding for the program.
- ASI staff visited Washington, D.C. and met with the California delegates and Michael Winter from the Federal Transit Administration.

3. Disabled Parking Enforcement

Personnel from the City Department of Transportation, Abatement and Disabled Placard Division, gave an overview on their procedures to monitor and enforce the use of disabled parking placards and disabled parking spaces in the City of Los Angeles.

Officers reported that the Abatement and Disabled Placard Division has special units that patrol the streets to monitor the misuse of disabled parking placards. Field Units are dispatched to investigate reports of placard misuse, assess handicap parking situations and determine if a citation should be issued or the placard confiscated. Identification numbers on the disabled parking placards are also verified by these officers to ensure the placards are being used by the assigned driver.

The officers also spoke about the various levels of fines that can be imposed for the misuse of disabled parking placards and spaces, and also shared with the Commission some of the actual parking placards that had been modified or forged so that they would appear to be legitimate.

Disabled parking violations can be reported 24/7 to the hotline number at (213) 485-4184.

Representatives from the County Parking Patrol enforcement unit were also in attendance and provided information about their procedures and practices on the enforcement of disabled parking violators, which operates very similarly to the City. In the normal course of their duties, officers as well as volunteers also patrol the streets to monitor the misuse of disabled parking placards. Parking violations for the County are issued by sworn officers, however, parking enforcement personnel can note the vehicle that is misusing a parking space or placard and call the Sheriff's station that handles that area. Officers from the station will then respond to the location and issue a citation on the driver of the vehicle.

The County has a Guidebook that lists the stations and the cities that they handle in the unincorporated areas of the County.

Following a question and answer period, Chair Neal thanked the representatives from the City and the County.

ITEMS NOT ON POSTED AGENDA

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Chair Neal announced a play titled "Reflections of a Black Deaf Woman" will be running at the Victory Theatre Center in Burbank through February 26th.
- Chair Neal also shared and distributed a news article featuring historical views of Black America films.
- Commissioner Krzyzanowski announced that the Huntington Library and Gardens have scheduled a series of film screenings, lectures and other events which relate to the African American experience and cultural heritage in Los Angeles which will run through April 2006.
- Mr. McKeever announced several upcoming social events which are being held in the community. For more information, the public can contact Mr. Ray McKeever by dialing operator 711, then having the operator call (213) 628-8860 or ramathh@aol.com.
- KNX Radio is sponsoring a Job Fair at the LAX Marriott Hotel on March 6th.

- The next Abilities Expo and Technology Conference is being held March 20-25. For more information contact (800) 388-8146 or www.abilitiesexpo.com.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:57 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Janet Neal, Chair
Harley Rubenstein, Vice Chair
Bernard Siegel, Treasurer
Michael G. Gureckas
Richard Krzyzanowski
John B. Troost
Kecia Weller
Sheila D. Wright

Board of Supervisors

Dedie Ward
Austin Patteson

County of Los Angeles

Sharon Bilbrey
Paul Vasquez

Excused Absent

Ruth Ann Acosta
Ernest T. Hamilton, Jr.
Viola Vivian Corbett

Unexcused Absent

Carlton L. Russell
Wendy Welt

Guests

Phyllis Coto
In Young Choe
Susan Sussman
Roné C. Ellis
Teddie Joy Remhild
Ray McKeever
Juana Garcia
Carlton Lindo
Jesse Podilla
Jess Segovia
Jerome Holmes
Ernest Dunan
Lawrence Rolon
Royce Crowder
John Mavis
Eve Hill